

# **“I Am The Light Of The World”**

## **John 8:12-36**

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**Teaching Aim:** To recognize, Jesus as *“The Light of the World,”* exposes our sin and opens our eyes to see the truth of God and His Word. To understand, Jesus has called every Christian to let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. To recognize that there are only two kinds of people in the world, those who are saved and those who are not. To understand salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone! (See **John 14:6**)

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)**

**Part I: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness” (John 8:12-14)**

1. As we pick up our story today at **John 8:12**, we have completed a brief interlude as we examined Jesus’ encounter with the woman caught in adultery. Jesus treated this sinner with kindness and compassion telling her to go and sin no more. Excluding the story of **John 7:53-8:11**, today’s verses fit very well with **John 7:52** and *“the Feast of Tabernacles.”* Traditionally there was a lighting ceremony near the end of the feast. How do we find Jesus identifying Himself in **verse 12**? Is it possible that the lighting ceremony in the festival actually pointed to Jesus as *“the light of the world?”*
  
2. What instruction did Jesus leave for Christians in **verse 12**? Do you walk in darkness or in the light of life? How can a Christ follower walk in *“the light of life”* today? (See **Matt. 5:14-16**)
  
3. What did the Pharisees accuse Jesus of in **verse 13**? What was their basis for saying this? (See **Deut. 17:6; 19:15**) How did Jesus respond to His accusers in **verse 14**? Who were Christ’s two witnesses? What made the testimony of Jesus different from anyone else who ever lived?

## Part II: Old Testament Law requires two witnesses to establish the truth of a matter (John 8:15-27)

1. According to Jesus, on what basis had the Pharisees judged Him (**vs. 15**)? Have you ever been guilty of judging someone by their outward appearance? Is this right in God's eyes? During Christ's first advent, he did not come to judge the character of people, but rather to save people from their sins. (See **John 3:16-17**) Will Jesus come in judgment at His Second Coming? (See **Revelation 19:11-16**) What is meant when some Christians say that we live in "the age of grace?" What makes God's grace so important to every Christian?
2. What can we learn about Jesus from **verse 16** and **1 John 4:14 (vs. 17)**? Who do we find being witnesses for Jesus in **verse 18**? Did the Jewish religious leaders understand what Jesus was saying (**vs. 19**)? Who were the Pharisees looking for? Who did they think was Jesus' father? What can we learn about the Jewish religious leaders in **verse 19b**? Note: In rejecting Christ, the religious leaders were rejecting the Father who sent Him. How can we tell the true religious leader today from the false? (See **Matt. 7:15-16**)
3. The treasury was located near the Court of the Women on the temple grounds. According to **verse 20**, how did the Jewish authorities respond to the teachings of Jesus at the temple grounds? Why? What other famous biblical story took place here? (See **Luke 21:1-4**)
4. **Verse 20b** says, "No one laid hands on [Jesus], for His hour had not yet come." What would happen to Jesus when His hour finally did come? Note: God's timing is perfect. Have you ever run into trouble when we did something on our own timing and not God's?
5. In **verse 21**, Jesus informed the religious leaders that he was going away. What did He mean? Why would the religious leaders be unable to join Jesus there? Many people today believe that they are saved when in reality they are not. (See **Matt. 7:21-23**) What can we learn from the words of Jesus in **Matt. 7:13-14**? If asked to share the gospel with someone, what would you say?

6. There are only two kinds of people in the world today, those who are saved, and those who are not. What are some ways that *“Critical Race Theory”* and *“Critical Social Justice”* are tearing our nation apart today? The color red is the only color that matters, it represents the blood of Jesus Christ. (See **John 3:16; 14:6; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Acts 4:12**) What would happen in society if the church would only act as the church?
  
7. Did the Jews understand what Jesus meant in **verse 21**? What did they think Jesus was saying? How did the Jews view suicide? Although Jesus would not commit suicide, what did He do? (See **John 10:11,18**)
  
8. What was Jesus referring in **verse 23** when He said, *“You are from beneath; I am from above?”* Jesus had a heavenward focus, should we have the same today? What encouraging truth can we learn from **Phil. 3:20-21**?
  
9. What warning did Jesus give to the Pharisees in **verse 24**? People will either die in their sin or they will die in Christ. What can we learn from **John 3:36**? What precious truth can believers learn from **Psalms 116:15**? Have you ever noticed the difference between the funeral of an unbeliever and the *“Celebration of Life”* of a believer? What are some of the differences that you noticed? Why do you think unbelievers can’t see the difference?
  
10. Who does Jesus identify Himself as in **verse 24b**? (See **Exod. 3:14**) What will happen in the end to those who reject Christ? (See **John 14:6**) As we come to **verse 25**, the Jews are still trying to figure out who Jesus is. How did Jesus respond to their questioning?
  
11. What can we learn about the ministry of Jesus from **verses 26 & 27**? Did Jesus act on His own initiative or did He obey and do the will of His heavenly Father on earth? Why were the Jewish religious leaders blinded to whom Jesus and His Father were? (See **2 Cor. 4:3-4**)

### Part III: If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed (John 8:28-36)

1. What did Jesus mean in **verse 28** when He said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He?” (See Commentaries) What lesson can we learn from **verse 29**? Does it bring you comfort to know that God walks with you in the difficult times of life?
2. **Verse 30** indicates that many people believed in Jesus. What is the difference *between* “profession of faith” and “possession of faith?” Is it possible that many “Christians” think they are saved today but really are not? One of the proofs of a regenerate Christian is that the individual has an abiding faith in Christ (**vs. 31**). How would you define the word “abide?” (See Dictionary) According to **verse 31**, what is one of the clearest signs that a person is a true disciple of Jesus Christ? What does the word “disciple” mean? (See Dictionary)
3. What will happen when we know the truth of God’s Word (**vs. 32**)? What will we be free from? In salvation we are saved from three negative aspects of sin. How does each aspect of our salvation: 1) Justification; 2) Sanctification; and 3) Glorification deal with the penalty, power and presence of sin in our lives?
4. What were the Pharisees counting on for their security (**vs. 33**)? Were they right in saying the Jewish people had never been in bondage by anyone? What nations did hold the Jewish people in bondage historically?
5. Whenever Jesus says, “Most assuredly,” He is about to make a major announcement. What announcement did He make in **verse 34**? (See **Rom 3:23**) The Jewish religious leaders pretended to be religious, but they were anything but. What truth can we learn from **verse 35**? What did Jesus mean? (See **Gen. 21:8-21**) What is the only way a person can be a true child of God today?

6. Only Jesus can deliver us from the penalty, power, and presence of sin and death. What conclusion does John come to in **verse 36**? (See **Rom. 8:1-2**) What are some ways that Jesus has brought freedom into your life? How has your life changed since coming to faith in Jesus Christ?

**MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Jesus is the light of the world; those who follow Him should not walk in darkness, but in the light of life.
- As Christ followers, our lights should be shining in the world for Jesus.
- The Father did not send His Son to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (See **John 3:17**)
- The only color that matters today is the color red which represents the blood of Jesus – it brings people of all races and nationalities together into one body, the Church.
- One day Jesus will transform our lowly bodies into the likeness of His glorious body.
- Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints. (See **Psalms 116:15**)
- If we abide (or continue) in Scripture, we will know the truth of God's Word when the storms of life inevitably come; the Bible will be our guidebook for life.